A

BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL MEMOIR

OF THE LATE

Mr. CHRISTOPHER TURNER JOHNSON,

SURGEON AND LECTURER ON ANATOMY,

OCULIST OF THE WEST OF ENGLAND EYE INFIRMARY,

AND

MEMBER OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

IN LONDON,

4° 21-28

AND OF THE ROYAL MEDICAL SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH.

——— cui Pudor, et Juſtitiæ ſoror
Incorrupta Fides, nudaque Veritas
Quando ullum inveniet parem ?
Multis ille bonis flebilis occidit.

EXETER:

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ADVERTISEMENT.

THE following pages were drawn up, at the requeſt of my Friend and Colleague, the Rev. James Manning, to be ſubjoined to his Sermon preached on the Lord's day following the death of Mr. Johnſon. As Mr. Manning has printed only a ſmall number of copies, and does not deſign them for publication, I have thought it adviſable to work off ſome copies of the Memoirs ſeparately for more public circulation.

Conſiderable delay has taken place, in conſequence of the difficulty of procuring paper: if I had foreſeen it, I would have endeavoured to render the Memoir more complete; as it is, I leave it to the candour of the Reader.

LANT CARPENTER.

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BIOGRAPHICAL MEMOIR.

CHRISTOPHER TURNER JOHNSON was born at Knaresborough, in Yorkshire, April 29, 1786.—His parents are not in affluent circumstances; but those who know them, speak of them as possessed of a much higher respectability than that which arises from wealth.—He received the first part of his education in the grammar-school at Knaresborough, where he continued till the middle of 1796, during the last three years attending at Mrs. Withinshaw's school, to acquire the rudiments of the French language.

In July 1796, he went to the commercial academy at Nottingham, under the direction of the Rev. J. Blanchard, with whom the celebrated Henry Kyrke White received his early education. While with Mr. Blanchard, he always manifested great assiduity and attention, and peculiar docility of disposition. He was remarkable at that early age, for an unusual degree of principle, and steady regard to his then duties; and he obtained from his teacher the highest commendations for his diligence and good conduct. "It was not, however, with me," says Mr. Blanchard, "that he displayed those

marks of genius which afterwards burſt forth with ſuch luſtre;" and as he was deſigned for his father's buſineſs, (that of watch-making,) it was thought unneceſſary to direct his attention to the claſſics.

After he left Nottingham, (Midſummer 1798,) he was taught his father's buſineſs, in which he continued to be principally employed for ſome years. It was not very long, however, before he formed a ſtrong diſlike to his occupation, and began to direct his thoughts and wiſhes to the medical profeſſion. What firſt gave him a bias to this object, I have not learnt; but from ſeveral incidents which have come to my knowledge, I feel juſtified in aſſerting that one leading motive, if not the chief one, of his ſteady determination to purſue it, was the high opinion he had formed of the profeſſion, as affording means for extenſive uſefulneſs. His diſpoſition was always peculiarly humane and benevolent; and in a letter which he wrote at the time, he ſtated this as his motive, and (I believe) as his chief plea with his friends to be allowed to follow the bent of his inclinations.

This object led him to the active purſuit of the collateral and preparatory branches of knowledge; but it appears that it was not till he was nearly ſixteen years of age, that he began regularly to attend to the Latin and Greek languages. His progreſs, however, was ſo rapid, that in two years he was able to read the beſt Latin and Greek writers with correctneſs and fluency; and the gentlemen

who assisted him in his classical pursuits, concur in representing his attainments as surpassing every thing they had ever witnessed. Mr. Simpson, surgeon of Knaresborough, one of his early friends, as an instance of his persevering application, says, "He one day told me, that he had been puzzled for several hours with two lines in Justin; and added, the labour he thought had done him good." —"The rapidity, and avidity, if I may so call it," says Mr. Blanchard, "with which he devoured the classics, quite astonished me, who had been all my life time in the habit of marking the dawnings of genius." During the time which he spent at home, he also directed his attention to the Italian and French languages, and to natural philosophy, chemistry, and botany; and in these branches of knowledge, particularly the latter, he made considerable acquirements,—"so much so," again to use the words of his very valuable friend and tutor, "that in my occasional visits to Harrowgate, I his master did not think it beneath me to receive lessons in botany from my former pupil." The last year of his residence at home, he devoted himself very closely to the study of chemistry.

He had considerable difficulties to struggle with in the pursuit of his favorite object. The very heavy expenses attendant upon a thorough education for his profession, added to other objections

which his father felt againſt his engaging in it, threw a bar in his way, which was almoſt inſurmountable. Always impreſſed with the ſtricteſt ſenſe of filial duty, and with the warmeſt feelings of filial reſpect, nothing but the moſt decided bent of his mind to the object of his choice, the difficulty which is uſually felt in relinquiſhing a plan of life to which the purſuits and wiſhes have long been directed, and the concurrence of his other relations, with the promiſe from one of them of pecuniary aid, could have induced him ſo long and ſteadily to have gone on in the acquiſition of the preparatory knowledge, without that encouragement which he endeavoured to obtain from his father. His conſent, however, he at laſt received; and he went to Edinburgh in October 1805.

Every thing now was in his favour. He poſſeſſed a caſt of mind peculiarly calculated to enable him to ſet a correct value upon his advantages, and to direct him in the arrangement of his purſuits. He had the moſt earneſt deſire to qualify himſelf thoroughly for a profeſſion, whoſe reſponſibilities and importance he rated high and juſtly; and he had a warm intereſt in the acquiſition of the requiſite knowledge, which of itſelf, independently of a ſenſe of duty, would have made him adhere cloſely to the track which he had chalked out. His purſuits at Edinburgh were therefore entirely profeſſional; and it appears that he was there diſtinguiſhed, among thoſe to whom he could be known, for that

aſſiduous and unwearied diſpoſition to exertion, that ſoundneſs and comprehenſiveneſs of judgment, and that humane attention to the diſtreſſed, which always formed prominent features in his character. The laſt was particularly obſerved in his attendance at the Infirmary, and ſimilar inſtitutions. He attended all the profeſſional courſes in the College, and ſome of thoſe out of it; and his full abſtracts ſhow that it was not in his caſe for nothing: but I have no means of knowing whether he were at all noticed by the Profeſſors, except in the following inſtance. "From the account which he gave me," ſays our mutual friend Mr. De Lys, "of his acquaintance with Dr. Thompſon, (the Profeſſor of Military Surgery,) I have reaſon to believe that that gentleman treated him with marked attention, and that he owed this treatment to the Profeſſor's opinion of his merit; for he had not been introduced to him, and their firſt acquaintance was accidental."—During the firſt winter he ſpent in Edinburgh, he acquired a decided taſte for ſurgery; and afterwards made that his principal object.

While attending the ſummer courſes of 1806, he met with the accident which eventually rendered amputation neceſſary. At the beginning of Auguſt, while engaged in a botanical excurſion, about four miles from Edinburgh, he hurt the bottom of his foot with a ſharp ſtone. The walk back, and his continued attendance on the lectures, ſoon made the injury aſſume a ſerious appearance; and Mr.

Ruſſel, who attended him, adviſed him to return to Knareſborough, with a view to reſt, and to the care of his friends. This, however, he could not prevail upon him to do, until the concluſion of the courſes which he was attending; and he did not reach home till early in September. It will readily be ſuppoſed that he met with every poſſible domeſtic attention: he was with thoſe whom he loved, and who were willing to make every ſacrifice and exertion for him. But he ſoon perceived, what indeed *he* was the firſt to perceive, that though a cure of the wound might eventually be effected, his conſtitution, which was very delicate, would ſink under it; and that hectic ſymptoms were actually coming on. He determined therefore to undergo amputation; and himſelf wrote to York to obtain the aſſiſtance of the chief ſurgeons of the place. His thoughtful precautions reſpecting the feelings of others, his firmneſs and even chearfulneſs in the proſpect, and his peculiar fortitude and preſence of mind during the operation, will never be forgotten by his friends. Before it began, he gave minute directions as to the manner in which he wiſhed it to be conducted; and during the whole of the operation, under which he lay nearly two hours, ſcarcely an expreſſion of his intenſe pain eſcaped him, but he obſerved the progreſs of it, and was aware when the ſurgeon came to the laſt artery. This gentleman has often ſaid, that he never before ſaw ſuch a degree of manly fortitude, in a long courſe of extenſive practice.

Mr. Johnſon underwent the operation in December 1806; but his leg was not perfectly healed till the latter end of the following September. In the interval he procured from the patentee, Mr. Mann, (of Bradford, Yorkſhire,) an artificial leg, which was excellently calculated to leſſen the inconvenience he muſt otherwiſe have experienced. During his long convaleſcence, he was unable to make much progreſs in his profeſſional ſtudies; but he appears to have employed himſelf a good deal in botanical purſuits; and his herbarium, which was then (I believe) principally formed, would generally be conſidered as an extenſive one. It is now bound in four folio volumes.——In October 1807, he returned to Edinburgh, and finally left it at the end of the winter courſes. While there, and probably at this time, he became a member of the Royal Medical Society; and it was, I imagine, to that Society that he gave in an Eſſay on the following queries: "What are the effects of the Warm Bath upon the organization and functions of the human body in a ſtate of health? and to what caſes of diſeaſe is its uſe more particularly applicable?" In the courſe of his preparatory enquiries, he inſtituted ſeveral intereſting experiments, the detail of which he has given in the Eſſay, and from which he infers, though with that caution which was one of his intellectual characteriſtics, "that the warm bath acts as a gentle ſtimulus to the irritability of the ſyſtem," but that there does

not appear to be "equal reaſon for believing that the general ſenſibility is increaſed."

In the autumn of 1808 he went to London, to obtain that knowledge which perhaps can be thoroughly acquired only in the ſchools of ſurgery there. In accomplishing this, he was materially aſſiſted by a gentleman who has been already ſpoken of as his friend, and who has now the melancholy ſatisfaction of having done every thing in his power to further the laudable purſuits of this excellent young man.—From that period he had no opportunity of viſiting his relatives and early friends; and I may here ſtate the information which I have learnt as to his previous character. Thoſe who knew him while here, may be ſaid to know what he was in childhood and youth; for there was a degree of uniformity in his character throughout, which is very ſeldom obſerved. The ſame ſimplicity, uprightneſs, and truth, which we ſo much admired, were his conſtant characteriſtics from a child; and that humanity, diſintereſteredneſs, and equanimity, which ſo rapidly gained our affections, in like manner made him beloved by all the friends and companions of his early years. His amuſements when a child, though perfectly innocent, were often varied; but he never was accuſtomed to aſſociate with the neighbouring children, and he ſpent his leiſure time at home or at his uncle's in the neighbourhood. From an early age he was remarkable for his aſſiduity in the acquiſition of knowledge; and he was

ſeldom without ſome book with him: indeed he appears from the firſt to have neglected no opportunity for the cultivation of his underſtanding.—His domeſtic attachments were very ſtrong and permanent. It was only a moſt decided bent to medical purſuits, he often ſaid, which made him give up the comforts and intereſting pleaſures of home. He was regarded as a moſt dutiful Son, and a kind and affectionate Brother;—his Parents and his two Siſters (with whom he kept up a regular and confidential correſpondence) can bear a too feeling teſtimony to the truth of this. As to his love of truth, his Parents ſay, that they *never* diſcovered him in a falſehood; and it is a trait worth recording, that even when very young he was uniformly accuſtomed, when any of the family had done any thing which he knew would diſpleaſe his Mother, to urge them to acquaint her with it at once; offering, if they felt reluctant, to go with them; but always declaring, that if they did not, he muſt. He had indeed, in every reſpect, the rudiments of moral worth: no one poſſeſſed more ſelf controul; and he had from an early age a juſt ſenſe of religion. In addition to this teſtimony which I received from his family, I am happy to add the following from Mr. Blanchard; "His principles of religion were pure and unſophiſticated; partaking of that ſimplicity, humility, and benevolence, which characterized that of his Maſter and Saviour."—He went into the

world uncontaminated; and he paſſed through its pollutions without being injured by them.

While in Edinburgh, he had availed himſelf of every opportunity of diſſecting; and he had in London ample means of cultivating that intimate acquaintance with the ſtructure of the human body, which is ſo eſſential to the ſurgical profeſſion, and which he poſſeſſed in a very ſuperior degree.—I believe I am correct in ſtating, that during part of the time, he diſcharged the duties of demonſtrator both at St. Thomas's, and at Guy's hoſpital.—"He ſtudied anatomy," ſays Mr. De Lys, "with great ardour, and chiefly with a view to its application to ſurgery. Minute anatomy, as being chiefly uſeful in affording materials for phyſiological ſpeculation, and in gratifying curioſity, did not ſeem to be an object of intereſt with him." He always eſtimated the importance of any ſtudy to himſelf, by its utility in a profeſſional view; and he meaſured the attention which he beſtowed upon it, by this eſtimation. Not that he felt no intereſt in phyſiological enquiries; for I am perſuaded that if his life had been prolonged, he would have given great attention to them, and with his habits of accurate obſervation and correct judgment, would have laboured ſucceſsfully in that intereſting field: but he had that ſelf command in his ſtudies which he ſeems to have poſſeſſed in every department of conduct; and he had impoſed it upon himſelf as a ſacred duty, to qualify himſelf to the utmoſt for his profeſſion.

"While in London," again to employ the words of Mr. De Lys, "he attended only the anatomical and ſurgical lectures, and the practice of the ſurgeons in the two hoſpitals in the Borough; but while in Edinburgh he had diligently attended to the ſtudy of medicine; and he was well aware of the neceſſity of the moſt complete medical education to the ſurgeon. He had read more books on the ſubject of his profeſſion, than any man of his ſtanding with whom I am acquainted. His application while he was in London, was as great as his health would allow, or rather beyond it; for he injured himſelf by too much ſtudy, and by too cloſe an attendance upon the diſſecting room, and was laid up for ſeveral weeks, ſo that I was apprehenſive he muſt have removed into the country. He was very much reſpected by his teachers, and by his fellow-ſtudents; and that reſpect was obtained by his exemplary conduct as well as by his profeſſional character. For the attention which he received from Mr. Aſtley Cooper, he was indebted ſolely to his own merit and to the pains which Mr. Cooper takes to diſcover and countenance young men who are likely to diſtinguiſh themſelves; at leaſt they were not courted in any way, for he was not introduced to Mr. Cooper, and far from intruding himſelf on his teachers, he ſeemed rather to ſhun their notice." Thoſe who knew our friend in this city, will readily perceive how this little trait correſponds with his later character. Though

he manifeſted that intereſting familiarity, where he was known, which generally ariſes from an upright, unſuſpecting, candid mind, yet his manners were always as unobtruſive as his character was unaſſuming.—Mr. Cooper's conduct towards him, indicated a very high opinion of his worth and talents. He often took him with him, I underſtood, in his private profeſſional viſits; and he has ever ſince employed every ſuitable opportunity of expreſſing his opinion,—an opinion as important to Mr. Johnſon as it was honourable. Our friend, I have heard, (not, of courſe, directly or indirectly from himſelf,) had once a peculiar opportunity of knowing Mr. Cooper's ideas reſpecting him. That gentleman one day in the lecture-room, ſuppoſing that Mr. Johnſon was abſent, took occaſion to hold up to the claſs his aſſiduous attention and unwearied exertion to qualify himſelf for his profeſſion.

"He lived while in London," ſays Mr. De Lys, "in a very economical manner; but no one ever heard him ſuſpected of the ſlighteſt act of meanneſs. I have the higheſt opinion of the moral character of our friend; and I do not believe that a man of more ſtrict integrity and ſound delicacy ever lived." I feel peculiar pleaſure in thus employing Mr. De Lys's words; becauſe they contain an independent opinion, formed by one who knew Mr. Johnſon very intimately, and whoſe own moral and intellectual character give his judgment great value,—and formed of him at a part of the profeſſional education,

when there is perhaps moſt to ſully the worth and purity of the mind. Mr. De Lys adds, that while in London he does not know that Mr. Johnſon had any other pleaſure than the purſuit of his profeſſion, or read any book but what related to it; and that he was enough with him to make it improbable that he ſhould not have known, if it had been otherwiſe.

Before Mr. Johnſon left London, he was admitted a member of the Royal College of Surgeons; and what is probably more honourable to him, he gained their prize by his Eſſay on Cancer. Reſpecting the merits of this Eſſay, which was publiſhed in 1810, I am of courſe an incompetent judge: the only public critique which I have ſeen, bears evident marks of having been written under the influence of envy and diſappointment. I hope I ſhall have Mr. Cooper's excuſe, in quoting one or two paſſages reſpecting the Eſſay from his letters to my friend. In one (Jan. 8th, 1810) after expreſſing his opinion, (too late however to be employed), that ſome alterations were requiſite in the ſtyle, Mr. Cooper ſays, "The marrow of the work is very ſound ſenſe, and will do you credit; but you know that a diamond in its native rough coating, will be loſt on nine-tenths of mankind." (In the ſame letter he ſays, "I rejoice at the proſpect of your ſucceſs; and if you can find any mode in which I can improve it, inform me, and I will do all that lies in my power.") After the receipt of a printed copy of the Eſſay, Mr. Cooper ſays (Aug.

17th,) " Your deſcription is in the higheſt degree accurate, and cannot be excelled; but it is your theory of the diſeaſe which marks the moſt reflection, and which will do you the moſt credit as being the original part of your work. It gives me infinite ſatisfaction to hear of your ſucceſs, which I ever ſhall endeavour to promote, as far as is in my power without injury to others." I am perſuaded that it will give Mr. Cooper ſatisfaction to know that his kind endeavours to promote Mr. Johnſon's ſucceſs, were duly appreciated both by himſelf and by his friends.

Mr. Johnſon came to Exeter in April 1809, when he was only twenty-three years of age. His introductions were few, but they were calculated to ſerve him. Mr. Aſtley Cooper gave him a moſt honourable introduction to his uncle, Mr. Cooper, of Heavitree, and another, equally ſo, to Mr. Ruſſell. Mr. Saunders introduced him to Mr. Adams (his former pupil, then Oculiſt to the Weſt of England Eye Infirmary,) by a letter, in which he ſpoke in the higheſt poſſible terms of his talents and acquiſitions, declaring that he would ſtake his own reputation on Mr. Johnſon's character, and deſiring Mr. Adams to render him every ſervice in his power, and, particularly, to introduce him to Mr. S. F. Milford, which he would otherwiſe himſelf have done. As might be expected, Mr. Adams was happy to take by the hand a young man of ſuch promiſe and reſpectability; and the recommenda-

tion which he had it in his power to give from Mr. Saunders, and which he appears to have employed on every opportunity, contributed materially to haſten the progreſs of Mr. Johnſon's reputation. Mr. Goullet, " a very deſerving young ſurgeon of Wellington," who was well acquainted with him while in London, introduced him I believe to his relatives here ; but I do not recollect that he had any other introductions, except indeed that which our mutual friend De Lys gave him to me, which laid the foundation of an intimacy, in which I have reaſon to hope that he took an intereſt ſimilar to my own, and on which I ſhall always look back with great though melancholy ſatisfaction. It gave me frequent opportunities of attentively obſerving thoſe delicate yet decided traits in his character, which even a ſlight acquaintance brought into view, and which many ſaw expreſſed in his manly, noble, intereſting countenance ; and memory now retraces numerous little artleſs indications of genuine worth and goodneſs, which others alſo muſt have noticed, and which won the attachment and confidence of all who ſhared his intimacy, to a degree and with a rapidity which is ſeldom equalled. Though we did not then know that he had always been remarkable for truth, and integrity, and delicacy, and ſelf-controul, yet there was ſomething about him which impreſſed his friends with the conviction, that his heart was as pure as it was ſincere, and which made the moſt delicate mind feel at eaſe in

his ſociety. And I muſt be permitted to mention here, that during thoſe wanderings of imagination and intellect which uſually accompany the diſorder which removed him from life, (and which, in his caſe, manifeſted, in a ſtriking degree, the ſtrength and vigour of his mind,) I never heard any expreſſion which would have given the niceſt modeſty a momentary uneaſineſs.

In the beginning of 1810, he commenced a courſe of lectures on anatomy and phyſiology. In this he was partly influenced by the repreſentations and wiſhes of his friends, both here and in London; but in no ſmall degree alſo by his deſire of diffuſing an acquaintance with our frame, and of increaſing the opportunities of acquiring profeſſional knowledge. From his purpoſe to render his lectures intereſting and beneficial to a general audience, he could not commonly extend his obſervations to thoſe minutiæ which are of importance ſolely to profeſſional men; but the view which he gave of his ſubjects though general, was not ſuperficial; and his ſtatements and demonſtrations were ſo luminous and correct, that his inſtructions furniſhed an excellent introduction to the London lectures. He was repeating his courſe, upon a more extenſive ſcale, when he was interrupted by the illneſs, the mournful event of which is well known. The lectures barely paid their own expenſes; for he did every thing in his power, to render them ſerviceable, eſpecially to thoſe young profeſſional gentlemen

his bed only one day that week; and on Sunday and Monday he roſe as uſual. This laſt day (Feb. 10th,) with the aſſiſtance of Mr. Strachan, he extracted a bit of iron from the cornea of a man who came to him from Tiverton; and this was, I believe, the laſt operation which he performed. During this and the laſt two days, there were ſome typhoid ſymptoms, and "he had wandering deliriums in the night; but his judgment was as perfect and his mind as firm as ever, and his perceptions were perhaps morbidly acute."* About Wedneſday, the diſorder appeared to have decidedly aſſumed a typhous appearance. After this time, he more than once told me that he was convinced he underſtood his caſe; and though he expreſſed himſelf ſenſible of the attentions which the profeſſional gentlemen of the city had ſhown him, he continued to decline their aſſiſtance. In this, I have reaſon to believe, he was principally influenced by the apprehenſion of hurting the feelings of a medical friend, if he ſhould decline, as he felt he muſt, what did not accord with his own ideas of the caſe. On Saturday Feb. 23d, however, Meſſrs. Cooper and

* I hope Mr. Strachan will excuſe my here uſing his own words; they give a moſt correct idea of our friend's mental ſtate during the firſt twelve days of his illneſs. I perceived no ſymptoms of delirium till Friday Feb. 22d: even then they were ſo ſlight and fleeting that he was at once ſenſible of them; and on the preceding days that I ſaw him, his mind appeared to be as healthy as ever.

Brock came to ſee him, with the expreſs view of prevailing upon him to change his plan. After combating their arguments in a perfectly collected manner, he agreed to ſee Dr. Luke. The ſame day I obtained his conſent to my writing to his parents; and was obliged to inform them, in addition to what was written under his own inſpection, that Dr. Luke's opinion was more unfavourable than we had hoped. It was indeed alarming. The ſame night he thought it deſirable to call a conſultation, at which Drs. Daniell and Millar were preſent; and within two or three days all the phyſicians in the city regularly ſaw him. I am perſuaded that no exertion was ſpared by his medical friends. Their conſultations were very frequent; and they often called in at other times. To ſecure attention to their directions, Mr. Dymoke and two other gentlemen of the army, Meſſrs. Parſons and M'Andrew, ſat up with him alternately; and Meſſrs. Strachan and Bailey were very frequently with him at other times. There were at times ſome glimmerings of hope; but I believe ſcarcely any variations in the ſymptoms were noticed. The pulſe fluctuated between 144 and 112; but in the early part of the week he was often perfectly collected, and kindly noticed the little attentions which were ſhown him by thoſe around him. About Saturday, March 2d, there were fewer complete intermiſſions from delirium; and his mind was obviouſly loſing that vigour which it had before manifeſted. On Sunday, however, which was the firſt day on which a letter

could come from his parents, he enquired very collectedly if I had heard from them. I told him that I had, and that his ſiſter would immediately come down if he wiſhed it: he ſaid it was not at all neceſſary, and deſired me to ſay that he was better. He knew thoſe friends who were with him, till about four on Monday morning; from which time the powers of nature very rapidly ſunk, and he expired at half paſt eight.—I cannot help ſtating, as a fact which may be intereſting to ſome, that for a ſhort time before diſſolution, all appearance of pain vaniſhed, and the countenance aſſumed an indeſcribably tranquil and benign expreſſion, which it continued afterwards to retain, and which can never be forgotten by thoſe who witneſſed it.

On the ſucceeding Thurſday, the following brief delineation of his character, was inſerted (with a notice of his death) in the Exeter papers; and I make no apology for introducing it here, as it has been pronounced by competent judges to poſſeſs the merit of accuracy.

"It is leſs than two years ſince he came to reſide among us; but in that ſhort period, he gradually acquired a degree of reputation for accurate and extenſive anatomical knowledge and ſurgical ſkill,—for clearneſs, penetration, comprehenſiveneſs, and coolneſs of judgment,—and for temperate yet deciſive firmness,—which is rare at a much more advanced period of life. He ſpared no expenſe or

exertion in gaining or in communicating knowledge. If it had pleaſed providence to ſpare his life, there is no reaſonable ground for doubt, that he would have ranked among the very firſt of his profeſſion in this kingdom.

"He had a high ſenſe of the utility of his profeſſion; and his unoſtentatious goodneſs prompted him to employ his ſurgical talents among the poor, to an extent that is known but to few; but thoſe know, that there are many in that claſs of ſociety who weep for him as a kind benefactor.—His profeſſional conduct was peculiarly calculated to conciliate the goodwill of his profeſſional brethren. There was no aſſumption of ſuperiority to diſguſt,—no mean arts to injure: he carefully ſtudied the proprieties of his profeſſion, and as carefully obſerved them.

"And in all this he had nothing to do but to follow the habitual promptings of his own upright benevolent heart. He had no obliquity of mind, no ſiniſter views, no ends which required ſecrecy,—all was fair and open. Thoſe who have the mournful ſatisfaction of having ſhared his friendly intimacy, never ſaw in him any thing that appeared unſuitable to what they expected from his character; and in proportion as this was known, the more it intereſted and delighted. His cultivated underſtanding, excellent ſenſe, well-regulated feelings, and ſterling worth, made that intimacy regarded as a treaſure; and his delicacy of mind, his diſintereſtedneſs and

generoſity, his candour, kindneſs, ſimplicity, and ſincerity, obtained the affectionate confidence of his patients, and of all his friends.

"It is no common loſs which we deplore; and in thus expreſſing our ſentiments, we feel poſſeſſed of the public ſympathy. It has been truly ſaid, that every one who ſpeaks of him ſeems to have loſt a friend. He was reſpected and beloved in life; and his early ſummons to the grave is affecting to all,—to many diſtreſſing beyond expreſſion."

Some of thoſe who mourned for the loſs of one ſo excellent, met on Thurſday morning, to pay him the laſt mark of attachment and reſpect. The five phyſicians, and the five army-ſurgeons whoſe names I have already mentioned, and about twenty other gentlemen were preſent: ſeveral others (and among them the commanding officer and the ſurgeon of the 9th dragoons, who came a ſhort time too late,) wiſhed to have been preſent. The ſolemn ſcene was affecting to all; indeed he muſt have been without ſenſibility who did not feel it. The reſpectful ſilence and ſorrow of many in the humbler walks of life, was not the leaſt honourable circumſtance to the worthy being whoſe loſs they deplored. "I only wiſh to ſee his funeral, Sir; I am as ſorry for him as if he had been my own father,"—were, on the preceding evening, the ſimple expreſſions of one who looked on him as a benefactor. And when his poor mother firſt learnt the loſs of her ſon, the waiter who communicated it to

her, with marks of genuine ſympathy, told her that the firſt tears he ever ſhed in his life, were ſhed over his grave.

If it had pleaſed the Supreme Diſpoſer of all events, to preſerve a life ſo valuable, the peculiar maturity and uniformity of his character give reaſon to believe, that his worth would have had great influence on the characters of others. I feel a hope that this effort to make it more known and underſtood, may have its effect, in aiding the moral efficacy which the remembrance of his excellencies muſt have, where they were properly felt and appreciated. A ſimilar hope led to the following reflections, which I delivered at George's Meeting, on the ſucceeding Sunday; and I hope I ſhall find excuſe for ſubjoining them to this little narrative.

While we indulge an honeſt, yet mournful, ſatisfaction, that that which we ſo much valued was ſo much valued by others,—while we allow our admiration at the rare combination of talents, which placed our friend ſo high in the rank of profeſſional and intellectual eminence,—let us not forget what it was that gave thoſe talents their brighteſt luſtre, and commanded our eſteem, our reſpectful affection, as well as our admiration. Yes, he had rapidly acquired, among ſtrangers, the eſteem and reſpectful affection of many who were far beyond him in the journey of life; and it was by qualities in which we may all partake. Our circle of uſefulneſs may be very much more limited than his

own, but, in that circle, we may exercise the same qualities of heart; and they will seldom be without a similar result. It was his firm principle, his disinterested, I may say his tender, kindness and humanity, his sincerity and openness, his correctness of conduct and purity of heart, which made him so estimable and so much esteemed,—which made so many regard him as a friend, and so many as a benefactor,—which obtained our most cordial attachment and confidence, and which now forces from us the tear of sorrow. The tears of Jesus sanctified the sorrows of nature, where they are not mixed with the murmurings of distrust; and ours have hope to soothe them; for I feel a lively conviction that he whose loss we mourn, in no common degree kept himself unspotted from the world;—that in simplicity, and even godly sincerity, he had his conversation in it. As he was not a member of our religious communion,* we had less opportunity of knowing his character in that point of view; but various little traits and circumstances which memory delights to retrace, satisfy my mind, that though religious principle was not in him obtrusive, he lived under its influence.—The point to which I wish to direct the attention of my young friends is, that genuine goodness will obtain all that is valuable in human regard; that it will meet, in its circle of influence, with its reward: but I feel it a

* Mr. Johnson was a member of the established church; and I believe regularly attended its services.

duty though a painful one to direct their attention to another conſideration. When we remember that four weeks have not elapſed ſince our friend was employed in communicating knowledge reſpecting the wonderful ſtructure of our frame with which he was ſo intimately acquainted, and that if his mind had not been prepared for the event, his diſorder in the later periods of it would have precluded the poſſibility of any greater preparation, we not only more ſenſibly feel the important truth, that our lives are in the hands of God, that we are conſtantly dependant upon him for the continuance of life, and of all which renders it a ſource of good to ourſelves or others, that it is a talent which we ought moſt faithfully to improve, and that the improvement of it is a debt of gratitude which we owe to our bountiful preſerver and benefactor, as well as eſſentially neceſſary to our future happineſs,—but we cannot but be impreſſed with the conviction, that ſoon and ſuddenly we alſo may be called to give up our account: and that wiſdom and duty alike call upon us, not to delay that preparation for which we may have no opportunity, and for which we certainly ſhall not have a more convenient ſeaſon than the preſent.

Cullum, Printer, Exeter.